

REPORT THAT HAYS IS TO BE LANDIS OF THE MOVIES

Story That He Will Be High Commissioner at \$100,000 a Year Not Confirmed.

WORD WOULD BE LAW.

Some Motion Picture Men Admit Merger of Industry Has Been Contemplated.

Rumors to the effect that leaders in the motion picture industry were planning a gigantic combine with Will H. Hays, Postmaster General, occupying the chair of High Commissioner and drawing a salary of \$100,000 a year, flew thick and fast along Broadway to-day.

The story was that the Postmaster General would be made a sort of Judge Landis of the movies and his word would be law in moviedom. The whole idea was said to have been planned when certain big producers were brought to the realization that "something had to be done" to rejuvenate the industry and prevent both its reputation and its financial standing from slipping down the toboggan.

It seems that almost everyone in the film industry had "heard something," but no one could be pinned down to an absolute statement that Mr. Hays would be offered the position of High Commissioner of the Motion Picture Industry. Another idea spread by rumor was that it would mean a complete reorganization of the National Association of the Motion Picture Industry, which takes in practically all of the industry within its membership. This, it is true, is news to the heads of the association.

"We know nothing of any such plans," announced an official of the association to-day. "We have heard

of no contemplated reorganization and nothing whatsoever of any such move. If there is such an idea in the heads of some producers or exhibitors, we, up to now, have heard nothing of it. It seems to me that if there was to be a big reorganization of this association that those at the head of the association would know something about it."

On the other hand, Adolph Zukor, head of the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation and one of the dominant figures in motion pictures, admitted that such a reorganization plan was being contemplated. He would not, however, admit that Mr. Hays had been offered the position of head of the new organization, but stated that several men were in the minds of the magnates for such a position.

"There is nothing much I can say," announced Mr. Zukor. "There is such a plan on foot (a reorganization), but we have four or five men in mind to invite to hear it and we have decided nothing definite as yet."

It is also rumored that Herbert Hoover has been considered by the magnates, but this could not be substantiated. It is said that Mr. Hays and Mr. Zukor have talked the matter over and it is hinted that the Postmaster General asked for more time in making a decision, presumably so that he could take up the matter with President Harding before making a final statement.

William A. Brady said: "I know nothing about it. There has been a lot of talk along those lines for a long time, but nothing creative has come out of it."

1,021 LIVES SAVED BY COAST GUARDS

In One Year Cutters Gave Aid in 1,933 Instances to Vessels in Distress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. — Coast Guard cutters and stations saved 1,021 persons during the twelve months ended last June 30, says the annual report to-day submitted to Capt. W. E. Reynolds, Commandant of the service. Assistance was given to vessels carrying 14,913 persons and valued, with their cargoes, at \$66,260,445, the total instances of lives saved and vessels assisted numbering 1,933.

In addition the service gave miscellaneous assistance to persons and ships in 855 instances. The range of these services, Capt. Reynolds says, was wide and diversified "and fittingly illustrates the many-sided character of Coast Guard activities."

FRAYNE IN PLEA FOR 'CONCILIATION' TO AID BUILDING

Admits "Unfortunate Spirit" Was Shown by Witness at the Lockwood Hearing.

Inquiry of the Lockwood Committee into the charge that some building trade unions encourage their men to be work-slackers was about wound up. Samuel Untermeyer said to-day, with the examination yesterday of Hugh Frayne, organizer of the American Federation of Labor. The examination was more of an appeal for help than a search for information.

Mr. Frayne's response was a general plea for reasonable conciliation. He shrank nervously from any suggestion by the committee that labor unions incorporate, thus giving their members the right to review the acts of their officers and the handling of union finances in court. Mr. Frayne said the employers had an inveterate tendency to use the incorporation to apply court pressure to the disad-

vantage of the unions. Mr. Frayne said the Federation of Labor had no control over the local unions which had been chartered by international unions, though the international unions had charters from the A. F. of L.

He reluctantly admitted an "unfortunate spirit" was shown by the testimony of John Pearl of the Plasterers' Union that he hated the employers' organization, sought to "put the harpoon into foremen" who hustled their men and rejoiced in imposing fines on employers who demanded large production. But Mr. Frayne said the spirit of many employers was "just as unfortunate."

"Suppose I tell you," said Mr. Untermeyer, "of an owner of an apartment house uptown who was in a hurry to finish it. In three days twenty-two plasterers finished twenty-one rooms. The owner made a bet of \$100, with the walking delegate, that they couldn't finish the remaining sixty-three rooms in two days—and they did."

Mr. Frayne laughed in embarrassment and said he had heard of such things and that "conciliation" would end them.

**RAID BY DRY AGENTS
SCARES 200 COUPLES**

Dancers Held Until Officials Search Brooklyn Hall. Six Federal Prohibition enforcement agents under Martin J. Kelly visited Arcadia Hall at Halsey Street and Saratoga Avenue, one of the largest dance

halls in Brooklyn, at 1 A. M. to-day and created great excitement among 200 couples by searching for liquor. The raiders covered all the doors and kept everybody there until the search, which was made on a warrant, was over. They say they found contraband liquor valued at \$1,500. The only arrest was of the manager, Carl Kalmonson, twenty-five, No. 725 Macon Street, who was released on bail.

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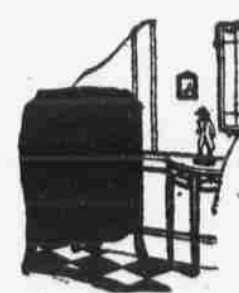
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